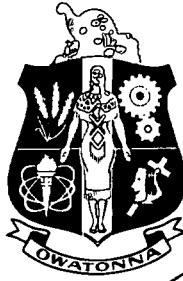


# THE CITY OF



# OWATONNA

Office of City Administrator  
Greg L. Sparks

December 8, 2006

540 West Hills Circle  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
Ph. (507) 444-4301  
FAX: (507) 444-4394

E-Mail: gregs@ci.owatonna.mn.us

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700  
Washington, DC 20006



Re: **Finance Docket No. 34177**  
**Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation -- Acquisition**  
**and Operation Exemption -- Lines of I&M Rail Link, LLC**

**Finance Docket No. 34178**  
**Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation**  
**and Cedar American Rail Holdings, Inc. -- Control --**  
**Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please be advised that the City of Owatonna, MN, supports IC&E's and DM&E's petition in this case and urges the STB to finalize this acquisition and control case.

We have received a copy of the IC&E/DM&E Notice, and in response, we urge that you act expeditiously and favorably on IC&E's request in this case. The City of Owatonna supports IC&E in this matter and believes it will result in improved rail service in Iowa and our community. Owatonna and the IC&E have negotiated an agreement, addressing issues that might potentially arise from any increased traffic. This case does not appear to warrant further environmental or other reviews.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Greg L. Sparks  
City Administrator

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

DEC 27 2006

Part of  
Public Record

GLS/dh

cc: Mark Walbran, City Attorney

*We are an Equal Opportunity Employer  
The City of Friendliness and Beautiful Parks*